



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHC Partnerships with Communities

Effective community partners serve the public by providing activities that educate and engage. County Historical Commission (CHC) efforts should bring community members together through history—help citizens identify with local history and with one another. Consider how communities benefit from the following CHC projects and initiatives.

Engagement leads to understanding

Engage with your community to create a shared appreciation and understanding of your county history.

Burleson CHC participated in a community-wide homecoming celebration, contributing in direct and visible ways. This event enabled CHC to show that the community's social history plays an important role in the county's history.

Burleson CHC worked with the Somerville School District, Somerville Ex-Students Association, and City of Somerville in the annual Somerville Homecoming Weekend Celebration. Planned events included a football game, ex-student activities and dance, a parade, and historical marker dedications. CHC assisted in planning dedications for the Somerville Stadium and Yegua Center WPA structures used by the Somerville ISD. CHC chair assisted with invitations, dedication program preparation, and press releases, as well as, participated in the dedication ceremony. The City prepared resolutions for the day and the school coordinated with the ex-students association on the weekend activities. Current and former students participated. Homecoming Weekend is a big event that brought former residents and visitors to Somerville for the weekend. History of the facilities was shared with approximately 250-300 people in attendance. Event was covered by local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. School continues to use and preserve the stadium and gym.

Webb CHC participated in a local farmer's market to connect with citizens in a non-traditional CHC setting. This opportunity enabled the CHC to reach an audience who was unfamiliar with the CHC, history, or preservation. CHC promoted its projects while promoting local history.

Webb CHC expands communication and collaboration efforts by providing a CHC awareness table for the public at the Laredo Main Street's Farmers Market. A new local history photo exhibit was developed for 2015 to build on the success of our first exhibit in 2014. Visitors at the information booth were drawn to the exhibit and CHC appointees engaged in conversations with them about preserving local history. The booth also provided current educational materials on various historic preservation topics. Younger patrons were given local history activity sheets and crayons.

Liberty CHC, known as an active community partner, had no trouble garnering support for this project. Promotional work led to a well-attended history exhibit that educated citizens and tourists.

Liberty CHC continues to look for ways to bring more cultural events to the county that educate the public. In 2016, the CHC partnered with First Liberty National Bank of Liberty to host and sponsor a Texas Heritage Trails traveling exhibit, "Quanah Parker, One Man Two Worlds." Local citizen donations brought the exhibit to Liberty for 6 weeks and paid for exhibit supplies, promotional efforts, and what was needed for an opening reception for the public.

Area newspapers ran weekly articles with photos about the story of Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker. KSHN Radio in Liberty broadcast promotional spots including exhibit topic, dates, hours, and directions. CHC chair and others involved in planning were guests on the "Party Line" show to promote and discuss the history of this fascinating part of Texas history. One of the local newspapers syndicates its magazine through a 5-6 county area resulting on average 15-20 calls for information per day. According to the calls and guest register, visitors came from communities within 100-mile radius around Liberty.

Hosting the exhibit in the downtown bank lobby provided a beautiful reception space, heavy foot traffic, parking accessibility, and security, as well as a central location to meet on the courthouse square in the business district. We enjoyed our partnership with the business community in Liberty; their enthusiasm was as great as ours.

Service demonstrates a preservation ethic

Provide a service-oriented approach to nurture a community preservation ethic.

A simple research request to the Comal CHC became a preservation success story that influenced change and improvement for the community.

Comal CHC was contacted by a property owner requesting help to confirm a rumor that his tavern had been assigned the first liquor license obtained in Texas after the repeal of Prohibition. The property, Riley's Tavern, was identified as a highly significant property in the CHC's county-wide cultural resource survey. CHC appointees' research on Riley's Tavern resulted in a historical subject marker and CHC is working on a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for a National Register nomination. Throughout the process, the CHC has partnered with the owner, Comal County Commissioners Court, and THC staff associated with the CLG, National Register, and State Historical Markers programs.

Cherokee CHC provides services to area families in creative and interactive ways. These efforts create personal connections between citizens and local history.

Cherokee CHC focused on preserving the history of east Texas families in a photo scanning project. Family History Scanning Day was sponsored in partnership with the Alto Public Library. CHC loaned a large flatbed scanner to the library, and members assisted in scanning photos and documents. Scanned files were then placed on flash drives for each family to take home.

Education connects history to preservation

Increase interest in area history and historic preservation through educational efforts.

Tyler CHC's tour of historic resources creates an interactive way to educate citizens. Experiencing history through place is a great way to educate and excite people about history.

Tyler CHC sponsored the 3rd Annual Tyler County on Tour, a self-paced heritage driving tour featuring three different historic sites in the county each year. The 2016 tour featured the 1891 Courthouse, the 1848 Wheat House, and the 1866 Tolar Kitchen, which is part of the Heritage Society's Heritage Village. Hosts included the county judge, county staff members, Tolar descendants, docents, and CHC appointees. Tour event generated several hundred dollars for the courthouse restoration project, while increasing heritage tourism for the county.

Fayette CHC uses meetings to educate the public on various county history topics. The CHC partners with sites to bring meaningful presentations to all who attend.

Fayette CHC meetings include programs related to local history and are publicized in newspapers and on the CHC's Facebook page. Last year, four meetings were held at historical spots around the county: the county courthouse with a tour led by the county judge recalling details of its restoration, the newly restored Old Stone Store at Muldoon, the Schulenburg Historical Museum, and the campus of the Round Top Area Historical Society. Representatives for each property appreciated the added exposure the meetings bring, and curious visitors learn more about the CHC and its activities. The fifth meeting included a well-attended program about the Texas Rangers, and the sixth meeting had a program about local cemeteries and the efforts taken through the years to record them.

Montgomery CHC diversifies the ways in which it educates the public. These outreach efforts reach a broad audience of individuals who may or may not be aware of county history.

Montgomery CHC educate others about county history in a variety of ways. CHC collaborates with *The Courier of Conroe County* to produce a monthly Sunday article featuring a historic Montgomery County building, person or residence. CHC appointees contribute history articles for *The Woodlands Lifestyles & Homes* magazine, historical features in the local *Community Impact Newspaper*. These articles are designed to generate interest and renew community pride in the history of Montgomery County. Additionally, appointees give presentations throughout the year to numerous civic and church organizations.

Parker CHC created a CHC brochure to pass out at community events. These brochures increase visibility of the CHC, while creating connections with people of all walks of life.

Parker CHC produced a new brochure outlining its purpose, goals, and activities to accomplish its goals. Brochure was distributed to attendees at the Bankhead Highway Celebration and again during the Christmas Candlelight Tour, which is sponsored by the Parker County Heritage Society. These types of heritage tourism events attract visitors from surrounding counties, so brochures promote the CHC and its accomplishments throughout the region.

Stewardship requires inclusion

Interpret the history of all communities and events relevant to your county to establish a sense of place that promotes stewardship.

Erath CHC is updating their county's historic and cultural resource survey. CHC will use this information to stage, prioritize, and stage future preservation projects.

Erath CHC realized that their cultural/historic resource survey had not been updated in 8 years. CHC felt an updated survey was needed, especially since one precinct in the county was under-represented. CHC appointees were given copies of the past survey and asked to turn in additions and suggestions by the end of the year. CHC chairman met with the county commissioners court and each commissioner was given a copy so they could join the project. Effective preservation planning (and implementation) requires awareness of local resources, physical conditions of properties, and an understanding of relative significance, information that historic resource surveys provides.

Collin CHC works with the public to populate an interactive historic resources map. Inviting the public to participate in CHC projects creates tangible and intangible connections to history.

Collin CHC has a Historic Assets Committee that, with help from county GIS services and the public, initiated an ongoing project to create a historic resources interactive map. This web map notes sites and stories about historic events in the county and is accessible to the public. CHC appointees go to various locales to answer questions to help individuals understand how to provide information that will be used to populate the map. Some areas on the map have more sites than others, so CHC continues to request help from the public to gather more data. Informational cards about the map project are available at area museums, schools, and senior centers. The primary goal of the project is to preserve the history of the county and make the information available to everyone.

Celebrations stimulate community pride

Celebrate local history with community-driven events and activities that inspire pride in place and motivate people to support preservation.

Pecos CHC partnered to host a community celebration of the historic Hovey School. Celebrating milestones with the entire community connects citizens to the history of your county.

Pecos CHC celebrated the Hovey School's 100th year with a series of weekly articles in the *Ft. Stockton Pioneer*. These articles chronicled the history of the school, its teachers and students, and its use after the school closed. The school's teacher quarters and kitchen were rehabilitated in preparation for a celebration that occurred during Old Fort Day. Guest speakers for the event included relatives of two of the school's original teachers, the property owners who saved the structure, and the remaining living students of Hovey School. Over 1,000 people signed in and enjoyed activities hosted by the Ft. Stockton Historical Society, Pecos County Historical Society, and the City of Ft. Stockton.

Jim Hogg CHC celebrates history through THC's Texas Treasures Business Award. Connect history to the businesses that have served your community and the business owners who invest in historic property.

Jim Hogg CHC hosted a ceremony to honor the New York Store for its Texas Treasure Business Award. This local business, which has been active for more than 100 years, has made exceptional contributions toward local and state economic growth. Initially, the New York Store served as a general store, providing the community and surrounding area with groceries, hardware, and agricultural supplies/equipment. Over the years, the store has evolved to serve the needs of the community. Recently, the store expanded its western wear department to offer a wider variety of jeans, boots, hats and other items that honor the lifestyle of area ranchers and Vaqueros. County officials, CHC appointees, and citizens from the surrounding area were in attendance for the ceremony to celebrate with the property owners.

Sabine CHC uses social media to grab people's attention with compelling stories. Find effective and inexpensive ways to promote history and interact with your audience. Promoting our shared heritage inspires people to support history and CHC efforts that protect history.

Sabine County maintains a Facebook Page dedicated to county history, which highlights the rich history of the people, places and history along the first Farm-to-Market (FM) highway in Texas. FM Highway 1 runs through western Sabine County and extends into southern San Augustine County. Most of the land crossed by the route was granted by the Republic of Mexico or the Republic of Texas. The highway's first section was constructed in 1939 and was finished in 1956. Its Facebook page posts photos of people, historic structures, old cemeteries, and schools, along with documents related this highway and its history. The Facebook page has a huge following made up of people from across the United States who contribute photos and documents that celebrate the history of the area.

Partnerships with communities

- Improving partnerships with communities
<http://www.thc.texas.gov/partnering-communities>



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